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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SANO, Akihiko et al. Conf.: 5150
Appl. No.: 09/786,746 Group: 1615
Filed: April 18, 2001 Examiner: R. Bennett
For: LONG TIME DRUG-SUSTAINED RELEASE PREPARATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

April 30, 2003

Sir:

Concurrent with Applicants' Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, the following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims are amended as follows:

- C 1
1. (Amended) A sustained release preparation of a lipophilic drug, comprising a drug dispersion wherein the lipophilic drug and a water-soluble substance are dispersed, as a solid particle at the body temperature of an animal or a human being to which the preparation is to be administered, in a water-impermeable and biocompatible material.